

Subject: Closed Airspace Lakeland Linder Regional Airport in Lakeland, Florida

Event: Annual Sun 'N Fun Fly-In

Dates: April 12 to 18, 2005

Times – Daily: 2 to 6 p.m.; **Weekends:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Affected Area: 10 nautical mile (11.5 statute mile) radius around airport (see attached map)

Background (<http://www.sun-n-fun.org>):

Last year, more than 160,000 people from each of the 50 United States and 73 countries participated in Sun 'n Fun's seven-day fly in. Event focuses on education with more than 400 forums and workshops; plus 500 commercial exhibitors; daily air show plus additional night air show on April 16 (to include Navy's Blue Angels); more than 4000 light aircraft of every size and shape will be in attendance and flying in-and-out of the area.

Concerns & Issues

- Lakeland Airport officials have altered pilots planning to attend the air show to use alternate airports (within 40 nm of Lakeland) in order to handle the excess air traffic and to provide additional aircraft parking facilities. Top of the list is the Bartow Municipal Airport, which was our alternate fixed-base-of-operations site.
- Furthermore, aircraft entering and exiting the Lakeland airport traffic area will be encouraged by the tower to be set up control tower not too linger in the vicinity (40 nm).
- Is the DOE and EPA willing to accept the liability for conducting a low detailed aerial survey within this general area where the potential for mid-air collisions and near misses will be much greater due to the increased number and congestion of light aircraft (4000+) flying into and out of the nearby airports.
- Hangar, office and hotel accommodations in the Lakeland and nearby area during that time period will be extremely hard to find on short notice.

Recommendations: My pilots and I strongly recommend that the survey either be completed by Sunday, April 10, prior to the start of the air show, or our arrival on site be no sooner than Thursday, April 21, 2005, after the air show and attendees have had a chance to depart.



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